

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of the above-identified application is requested in view of the following remarks.

Claims 1-11 are pending in this application, with Claims 1 and 8-10 being independent.

The Examiner is thanked for indicating that Claim 7 defines allowable subject matter.

An issue regarding the subject matter of Claim 10 is raised on the top of page two of the Official Action. As suggested in the Official Action, Claim 10 is amended to address this issue.

Claims 1-3, 5, 6 and 8-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,023,527, hereinafter *Narahara*.

Claims 1 and 8-9 presently define combinations of features generally directed toward color matching including obtainment of data that is related to a specific color of a first device and data related to a specific color of a second device in a prescribed color space, and calculation of a conversion parameter by estimating a color production range of the first device and the color reproduction range of the second device based on the respective data related to the specific color that is obtained. Claim 10 presently defines a combination of features directed toward obtaining a white point and a black point in a first color space produced by a first color image reproduction device, obtaining data of a white point and a black point in a second color space reproduced by a second color image reproduction device, and calculating a conversion parameter by estimating a color reproduction range of the

first device and the color reproduction range of the second device based on the respective data related to the specific color that is obtained.

Narahara discloses selection of a color space mapping technique for an output color space. In *Narahara*, a first device gamut is systematically mapped into a second device gamut by using a predetermined set of mapping techniques, and based upon a predetermined index of the generated output color quality, the best mapping technique is selected (abstract). In column 4, lines 61-67, *Narahara* describes that “[i]n order to map the gamuts, the color correction or color mapping units 7-13 determine the best mapping technique by comparing the actual output images generated by a plurality of predetermined mapping techniques. The best mapping technique is stored, and the subsequent mapping processes are performed based upon the best mapping technique.” A plurality of predetermined mapping techniques is stored in a memory, and the mapping technique control unit 12 retrieves the particular mapping technique at a given time (column 5, lines 18-22). The signal produced with the particular mapping technique is evaluated by an image characteristics processing unit 8, which generates a characteristic signal which is sent to a mapping evaluation unit 9 (column 5, lines 29-35). The evaluation signal for every mapping technique is accumulated and sent to a mapping technique decision unit 11, which selects the best or most desirable mapping technique among the predetermined mapping techniques (column 5, lines 40-45). *Narahara* does not disclose calculation of a mapping technique, but rather selection of a predetermined mapping technique from a series of stored mapping techniques.

Claims 1 and 8-10 are amended to more clearly distinguish over *Narahara*'s disclosure and now generally define combinations of features including calculation of

a conversion parameter, rather than selection of a predetermined conversion parameter.

Narahara does not disclose the above noted combinations of claimed features including calculation of a conversion parameter. Rather, *Narahara* discloses a conversion parameter being fixed in advance. Particularly, as noted above, *Narahara* discloses the optimum conversion parameter being selected from a plurality of conversion parameters that are prepared in advance (column 4, lines 61-67). *Narahara*'s selection method thereof includes obtainment of a signal indicative of the evaluation obtained using all the respective mapping techniques by the picture quality evaluation circuit 9, comparing the signal indicative of evaluation of each mapping technique, and selecting the best predetermined technique. Nowhere does *Narahara* disclose calculation of a conversion parameter.

Further, paragraph [0013] of the present specification recognizes that *Narahara*'s process is well known. In paragraph [0014] it is further described that a method in which color conversion tables are created in advance according to the degree of color space compression, i.e., a plurality of color conversion tables being produced in advance, and the color conversion tables being switched appropriately (a method in which the conversion parameter is fixed in advance), is well known.

The present specification also describes the problems associated with *Narahara*'s disclosed methods and how they are addressed by the present invention. Paragraphs [0020-0021] of the present specification describe that having the conversion parameter fixed in advance is disadvantageous in that appropriate and precise color conversion cannot be conducted although the conversion processing is of high speed. Furthermore, the conventional method of calculating the conversion

parameter is disadvantageous in that the time required for operation is increased although precise color conversion can be conducted.

The presently claimed subject matter addresses the above-noted deficiencies related to *Narahara*, i.e., aims to improve the accuracy and speed of obtainment of data related to a specific color of a first device and calculation of a conversion parameter, as defined by the claims. In other words, *Narahara* is merely conventional in the art and the claimed subject matter improves thereupon.

For at least the reasons stated above, Claims 1 and 8-10 are allowable. Claims 2-7 and 11 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependence from allowable independent claims, and also because they define features that distinguish over the cited disclosure.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application, or should the Examiner feel that a teleconference with the undersigned would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues pertaining to this application, the undersigned requests that he be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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